

REMARKSSummary of Office Action

The Office Action requires election of one of the following inventions:

Group I. Claims 1-20 and 24-51, drawn to a method and an imaging system for acquiring an omnidirectional mosaic image data including an image slice camera, a rotational drive system and an control unit; and

Group II. Claims 21-23, drawn to a method of generating an omnidirectional mosaic image data including the steps of: acquiring a plurality of overlapping image strips, identifying common features, combining consecutive image strips and blending the combined images.

Applicants' Reply

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the restriction requirement.

Applicants provisionally elect Group 1 claims, with traverse, for continued prosecution in this application.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims 1-51 relate to the same technical subject matter (i.e. omni directional mosaic imaging). Applicants traverse on the ground that the subject matter of the claims does not present an undue burden of search on the Examiner. (See e.g., PCT/US00/25810 International Search Report dated June 21 2001, which applies to all claims 1-51).

Applicants also traverse the restriction requirement on the ground that this application is based on an International Application, and the standard for such application is unity of invention. The International Application has been found to satisfy this standard by the

United States Patent Office. (See e.g., PCT/US00/25810 International Search Report).

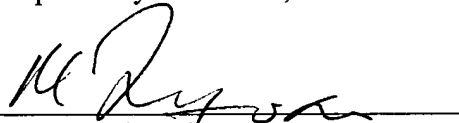
Accordingly, the Restriction requirement is improper.

Conclusion

Applicants have elected Group I claims 1-20 and 24-51, with traverse, for continued prosecution. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner should kindly reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement.

If there are any outstanding issues to be resolved, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner kindly contact the undersigned attorney by telephone

Respectfully submitted,



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